

Remarks:

Claims 1-8, and 13 remain for consideration in this application along with newly added claims 15-17. In view of the foregoing amendments, and remarks hereunder, the rejections of the last office action are respectfully traversed.

In the last office action, the Examiner made a number of claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicants have made all of the amendments suggested by the Examiner in order to obviate these rejections.


The Examiner also rejected claims 1-3, and 6-7 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. The Examiner further noted that claims 4, 5, 8, and 13 were free of the cited prior art. Through this Amendment, Applicants have chosen to take those claims which did not receive a double patenting rejection. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4, claim 5 has been rewritten as new claim 15, claim 8 has been rewritten as new claim 16, and new claim 17 corresponds to original claim 13 (dependent from original claim 8). Claim 4 has been accordingly canceled.

Furthermore, the Specification has been amended on page 1, line 5 to indicate the present status of the parent case which has issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,552,171. Applicants submit that the presently pending claims are free of the prior art and are in position for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments, a Notice of Allowance appears to be in order and such is courteously solicited.

Any additional fee which is due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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